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#20

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CARTOON NETWORK

STEVEN UNIVERSE™

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CARTOON NETWORK

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ALRIGHT! I THINK THAT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

PHEW...

COME ON, LET'S GET YOU TWO HYDRATED AFTER ALL THAT HARD WORK.

BWOOOOOO

HA... I DIDN'T KNOW PEARL COULD PRODUCE THAT MANY HOLO-PEARLS.

FLOP

YEAH... I DON'T KNOW HOW WE MADE IT...

ALRIGHT, MY LITTLE WARRIORS, DRINK UP!

OH, YOU TWO ONLY CONTINUE TO GET BETTER.

I'M SO PROUD OF YOU BOTH!

WELL, WE'RE JUST LEARNING FROM THE BEST.
HAHA, AW, SHUCKS.
OH, STOP!
BUT IT'S NICE TO BE ABLE TO RELAX NOW...
GEMS, WE HAVE A MISSION. CORRUPTED GEMS ON THE STRAWBERRY BATTLEFIELD.
OOF...WE'RE COMING.
HOPEFULLY, THEY'RE PUSHOVERS.
BWOOOOOO

BWOOOOOO

WOOOW... THIS PLACE IS AMAZING.

YES, THIS WAS THE LOCATION OF A HISTORIC GEM BATTLE.

THAT'S INCREDIBLE!

THERE'S OUR TARGET.

WHOAH!

SQUAAAWK!

GET READY!

CLANG

HAH!

CLANK

WHISHHH!

POW

SKRAAAAW!!

HA! GOTCHA!

ALRIGHT, HOLD IT STEADY AMETHYST...

CAW CAW!

CAW!

NOW THAT'S JUST UNCALLED FOR.

CRACK

SNAP!

AW MAN...

HRRRGH!

HMM...

OKAY, LET'S TRY THAT...

HEY! OVER HERE!

CONNIE! WAIT!

IT'S OKAY!

I'LL DISTRACT THIS ONE SO YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT OTHER ONE!

CAW CAW CAW!

THESE DON'T LOOK LIKE THEY'LL HOLD HER WEIGHT...

UH OH, OR MAYBE THEY WILL...

SHOOT!

I GUESS THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE...

HMM... MAYBE THIS WASN'T THE BEST PLAN.

SHE'S IN TROUBLE! GARNET, WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

I THINK WE KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN REACH HER.

WHO?

OH!

SHIIING!

GLOOOOOW

AAHH!!

AMETHYST!

AMETHYST! ARE YOU OKAY?

MMM YEAH! JUST PEACHY!

OR, HMM... STRAWBERRY-Y?

ARE YOU ALRIGHT, MY DEAR?

OH, YEAH, I'M FINE.

WONDERFUL! TERRIFIC EVEN!

NOW LET'S GET DOWN FROM HERE, SHALL WE?

HOLD ON TIGHT!

FWOOOSH

WHOAH! SARDONYX!

NICE JOB SMACKING THAT BIRD DOWN!
YEAH! YOU DID GREAT!
OHOHO!
IT WAS NOTHING REALLY.
BESIDES, I COULDN'T LET OUR DEAR CONNIE SQUARE OFF AGAINST THAT GEM MONSTER ALONE, COULD I?
HAHA, YEAH... I GUESS THAT WASN'T MY SMARTEST PLAN...
HAPPENS TO THE BEST OF US, DARLING!
AND GREAT JOB ON YOUR END, TOO!
YOU BOTH HANDLED THAT CORRUPTED GEM WONDERFULLY!
ALTHOUGH IT SEEMS YOU RAN INTO A BIT OF A...STICKY SITUATION?
OHOHO!
UUGH...
YEAH, ONE OF THE CORRUPTED GEMS GOT AWAY THOUGH...
OH, IT'S FINE.
WE'LL DEAL WITH IT ANOTHER DAY.

BWOOOOOO

THAT WAS GREAT WORK OUT THERE TODAY!

AMETHYST, PLEASE JUST WASH IT OFF.

AND WASTE ALL THIS PERFECTLY GOOD STRAWBERRY JUICE?

I DON'T THINK SO, P!

NICE JOB ON THAT SURPRISE MISSION!

YEAH, I GUESS...

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

NO, IT'S FINE. JUST A LITTLE TIRED.

SEE YOU FOR TRAINING TOMORROW!

THE NEXT MORNING...

IS THAT... CONNIE?

HEY, CONNIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE SO EARLY?

OH, JUST PRACTICING SOME SWORD TECHNIQUES.

MOM SAYS NO SWORD PRACTICE IN THE HOUSE.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN OUT HERE?

OH, SINCE EARLY THIS MORNING.

OH! DO YOU WANT TO TAKE A BREAK?

I WAS JUST ABOUT TO HEAD TO THE BIG DONUT.

CAN'T. AFTER YESTERDAY, I REALIZE I'VE BEEN SLACKING.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WE TRAIN ALL THE TIME.

YEAH, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH! YOU SAW HOW YESTERDAY WENT.

I CAN'T AFFORD TO SLIP UP LIKE THAT AGAIN.

YOU GUYS HAVE ALL IMPROVED SO MUCH. YOU AND AMETHYST TOOK DOWN THAT OTHER CORRUPTED GEM SO EASILY.

I FEEL I'M FALLING BEHIND, AND I DON'T WANT TO LET YOU OR THE CRYSTAL GEMS DOWN.

WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT "EASILY."

BUT, IF THAT'S HOW YOU FEEL...WOULD YOU LIKE A SPARRING PARTNER?

OF COURSE!

WHISSSHHH!

SHIELD THROW!

HAHA, YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY HARDER THAN THAT!

OKAY... DOUBLE SHIELD THROW!

WHISHH!

WHOOSHH!

CLANG

CLANG

IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?

SURPRISE SHIELD!

HRGH!

CLANG

AH!

CONNIE!

CONNIE, ARE YOU OKAY?

YEAH...I'M FINE.

IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I'LL JUST STUDY UP AND SEE YOU AT TRAINING LATER TODAY!

OKAY...

YO, STE-MAN! SOMETHING UP?

I'M WORRIED ABOUT CONNIE.

I THINK SHE'S PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD AFTER THAT MISSION YESTERDAY.

SHE KEEPS TALKING ABOUT HOW SHE FEELS SHE'S FALLING BEHIND AND DOESN'T WANT TO LET US DOWN.

I THINK SHE'S BEEN TRAINING NON-STOP SINCE YESTERDAY.

BUT, SHE'S BEEN DOING SO WELL!

YEAH.

AND PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD ISN'T GOOD.

YEAH...

I HAVE AN IDEA.

LATER...

HELLO! HERE AND READY FOR TRAINING!

YAY! LET'S GET GOING THEN!

WHAT ARE ALL THE GEMS DOING HERE?

THEY'RE HERE BECAUSE WE HAVE A SPECIAL MISSION TODAY!

OH! ARE WE GOING TO FIGHT THAT LAST CORRUPTED GEM THAT GOT AWAY?

NOT QUITE.

AH! THIS LOOKS LIKE A NICE SPOT.

WHAT ARE WE DOING UP HERE?

A PICNIC!

WHAT?

WE JUST THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO TAKE A BREAK!

BUT... SHOULDN'T WE BE TRAINING?

WELL, TRAINING IS IMPORTANT.

BUT BALANCE IS THE KEY AFTER ALL!

BUT IF I'M STILL STRUGGLING TO TAKE DOWN A CORRUPTED GEM, HOW AM I GOING TO STAND UP TO HOMEWORLD GEMS IF THEY SHOW UP AND--

JUST BREATHE.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT FOR NOW. FOCUS ON WHAT'S IN FRONT OF YOU.

YOU NEED TIME TO REST IN ORDER TO ALLOW YOURSELF TO GROW.

THIS PLACE USED TO BE A BATTLEFIELD. BUT NOW IT'S A FIELD OF GIANT STRAWBERRIES.

LET'S ENJOY THE PRESENT WE HAVE NOW RATHER THAN WORRY ABOUT THE PAST OR FUTURE.

YEAH, YOU'LL JUST BURN YOURSELF OUT THAT WAY.

TRUST ME, I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE IT ISN'T WORTH IT.

FUSION!!

IT'S THAT CORRUPTED GEM FROM YESTERDAY!

FEELING RECHARGED?
DEFINITELY. LET'S DO THIS!

THINK YOU CAN LAUNCH ME UP THERE?
CAN DO!

HAAA!

SLICE!

POFF!

YOU DID IT!

YEAH... I GUESS I DID!

NOW, LET'S GO FINISH THAT PICNIC!

YEAH!

CHAAAMPS

THE END

BOOM! STUDIOS DISCOVER YOURS

SEPTEMBER RELEASES AND NEWS

A MAGIC
ROLLER COASTER RIDE
WELCOME TO WANDERLAND

EVERY WEEK IN SEPTEMBER
WWE: NXT TAKEOVER

ALSO THIS MONTH
CODA VOL. 1 DISCOVER NOW EDITION
OVER THE GARDEN WALL: HOLLOW TOWN #1
GET TO KNOW BOOM! STUDIOS

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A MAGIC ROLLER COASTER RIDE

WELCOME TO WANDERLAND

Bellamy Muñoz knows everything there is to know about Wanderland Park. She knows all the shortcuts, and all the secret lore behind Old West Town, Space Age Metropolis, and New Princesston. But when she winds up in the REAL version of Wanderland, with actual princesses and adorable talking woodland creatures, she starts to realize that this magical land isn't much like the park at all, and the characters she thinks she knows aren't quite what she imagined.

Cover by
Maddi Gonzalez

Jackie Ball
Writer

Maddi Gonzalez
Artist

Jackie, how did you come up with the idea for *Welcome to Wanderland?*

Jackie Ball: I work in theme parks, and one of my best friends grew up in Orlando. He spent so much time in the parks, he used to literally do his homework there. There was something I really loved about that; it gave these massive parks such a small-town vibe.

Tell us a little bit about Bellamy and Riot. Who do you relate to more?

Ball: Well, I really used Bel and Riot as avatars to express contrary aspects of my own personality: the passionate, driven snob, with a blind spot for people's feelings; and the "lazy," fun-loving slacker who's terrified of failure. Those were parts of myself that I felt people could relate to, so they were the seeds of who these characters were in the beginning.

Maddi Gonzalez: I find myself drawn to each of them very strongly. I think Bel's fiery passion for yelling on the internet is something I can, uh, very unfortunately relate to.

It sounds like designing Wanderland Park and its magical counterpart would be both challenging and fun! What is your process?

Ball: It's been crazy challenging. There's been a lot from my career in theme parks that informs it. I'll put together some reference mood boards with a written description, and hand it off to Maddi. It's been an interesting challenge trying to create a cohesive "real" world to go along with the park. Not to mention that I don't want to totally ignore the inherent paradox of theme parks: they're these artistic endeavors, designed by people who care SO MUCH, but are also massive profit-makers often owned by corporations. That's not the point of the series, but it is definitely a facet of it.

Gonzalez: Jackie's great about having her inspiration very clear and on-hand. We have a document that she constantly updates with references for what she envisions for each part of the park; I keep sketch pages of concept work for both the real-life park and the magic land! Right now I'm trying to keep the real world more grounded in reality and the park a lot looser and fluid and fun. Hopefully that'll translate as well as I want it to!

We simply HAVE to ask; who came up with Riot's amazing design and outfit?
Ball: Maddi. I had some basic thoughts that I wanted her to be beefy and wear a jacket, but her actual designs are all Maddi and I love them to death. The knuckle crown was 100% Maddi's invention, and it's infuriating how perfect it is.

Gonzalez: That was both of us! When I first read the description of Riot's character and story arc, I doodled little versions of Riot all over my sketchbook for days and days. By the time we started nailing down character designs, I had a pretty good idea of what I wanted her to look like. Jackie, too, had a very clear vision of what she wanted for Riot, and I played off of that; we went back and forth until we were both happy. She's inspired by a lot of my favorite Disney princess concept art-- her hair, specifically, is an homage to *Frozen*'s Queen Elsa design back when she was originally going to be a villain; her jacket's an homage to Snow White's dress. Her crown is just cool.

If you could only visit one amusement park for the rest of your life, which one would you chose and why?

Ball: OG Disneyland, for sure. That's my home base and I will always love it. It was the first park I ever went to as a kid, and it had a huge role in building my life in LA.

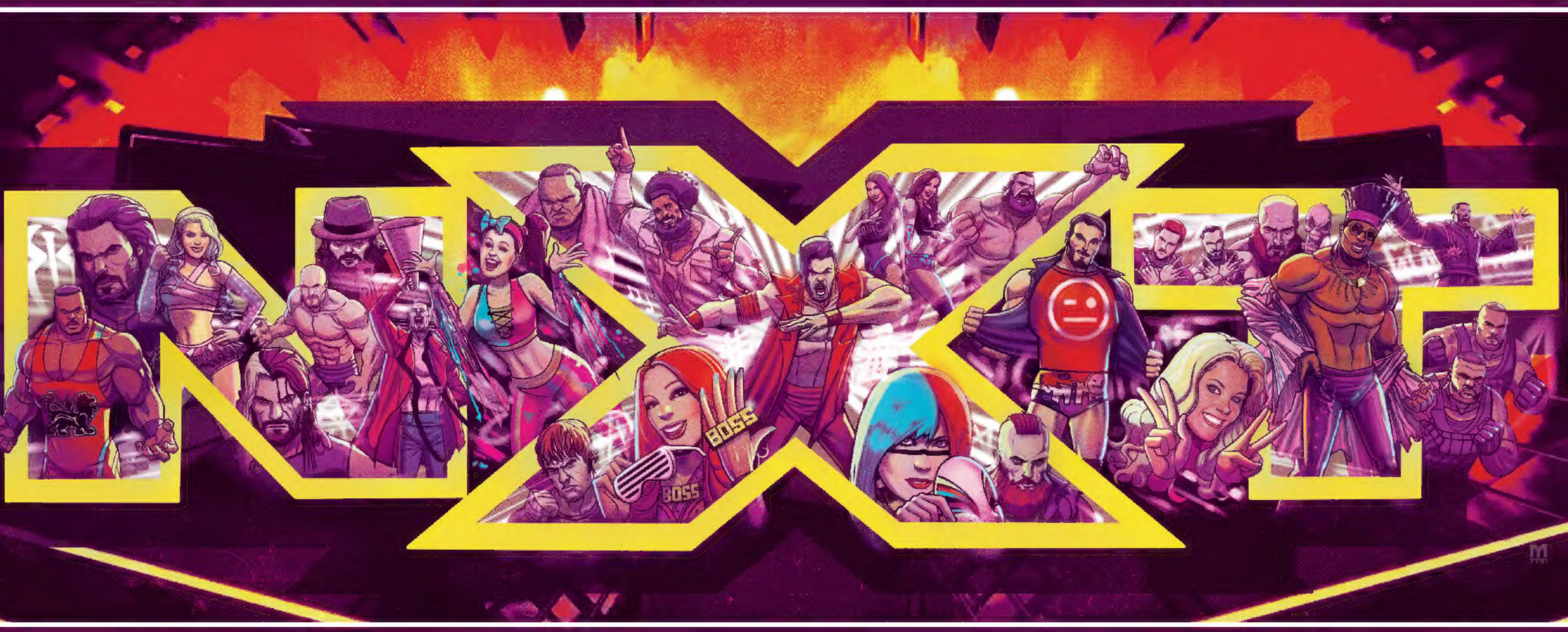
Gonzalez: Disney World! Is that basic? It's really the only one I've ever been to, but it makes me so giddy. I'm typing this from there! ■

WELCOME TO WANDERLAND #1
AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMIC SHOP **SEPTEMBER 12!**

EVERY WEEK IN SEPTEMBER!

WWE: NXT TAKEOVER

DENNIS HOPELESS • JAKE ELPHICK • KENDALL GOODE • HYEONJIN KIM



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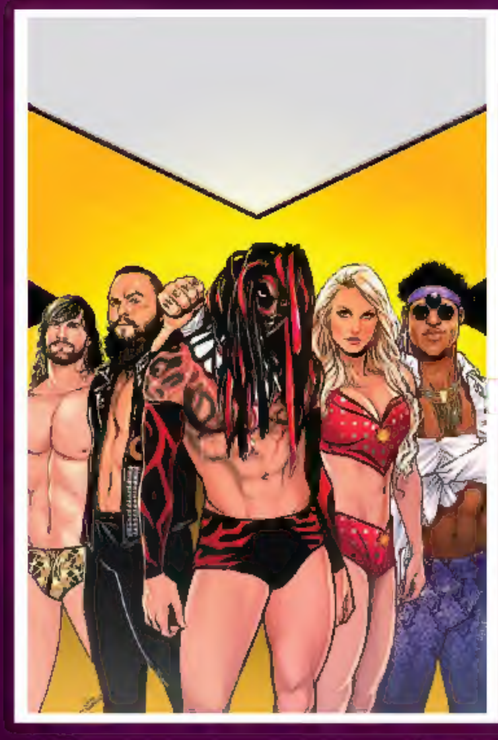
Marco D'Alfonso



WWE: NXT TAKEOVER THE BLUEPRINT #1

In the year 2012, Triple H and Dusty Rhodes head to Florida to begin the newest era of WWE.

ON SALE **SEPTEMBER 5!**

Cover by
Lucas Werneck

WWE: NXT TAKEOVER PROVING GROUND #1

Demon King, Finn Balor, enters the NXT Universe and is confronted by Samoa Joe.

ON SALE **SEPTEMBER 12!**

Cover by
Aaron Dana

WWE: NXT TAKEOVER INTO THE FIRE #1

The Empress of Tomorrow, Asuka, begins her rise to the NXT Women's Championship, all while former Champ Paige scouts for new allies.

ON SALE **SEPTEMBER 19!**

Cover by
David Nakayama

WWE: NXT TAKEOVER REDEMPTION #1

Johnny Gargano and Shayna Baszler make the move to NXT and immediately leave their mark.

ON SALE **SEPTEMBER 26!**

Cover by
Audrey Mok

HIGH FANTASY, LOW LIVES

CODA VOL. 1: DISCOVER NOW EDITION

In the aftermath of an apocalypse which wiped out nearly all magic from a once-wondrous world, an antisocial former bard named Hum seeks a way to save the soul of his wife with nothing but a foul-tempered mutant unicorn and his wits to protect him. Along the way he's drawn into a brutal power struggle which will forever decide who rules the weird wasteland.

Cover by
Matías Bergara

CODA VOL. 1: DISCOVER NOW EDITION
IS **EXCLUSIVELY** IN COMIC SHOPS **SEPTEMBER 19!**

RETURN TO THE UNKNOWN!

OVER THE GARDEN WALL: HOLLOW TOWN #1

Join Wirt, Greg, and Beatrice on an all-new adventure in the Unknown as they stumble on a small town inhabited entirely by eerie doll-people. After Greg loses a shoe, it's up to Wirt to earn money for a new pair, leading him to babysit some doll-children that may cause Wirt to stay in town forever...

OVER THE GARDEN WALL: HOLLOW TOWN #1
IS IN COMIC SHOPS **SEPTEMBER 19!**

GET TO KNOW **BOOM! STUDIOS**

STEPHANIE HOCUTT
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR

Currently Watching: *My Hero Academia,* rewatching *Avatar: The Last Airbender*

Favorite Item on Desk: My collection of Trunks figures from *Dragon Ball Z*

If I won the lottery I'd spend the money on: A bigger place to store all my collectibles and succulents...and then I'd get MORE collectibles and succulents!

Hobbies: Video games, sewing, watching all the anime, playing ukulele

Food I'd Wrestle a Bear for: Jalapeño Kettle Brand Potato Chips!

Secret talent: There was a semester in my sixth grade gym where my class learned to juggle, and I'm still pretty good at it!

Hometown: Newport News, Virginia